

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

NTL No. 97-2N Effective Date: August 1, 1997

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Well Naming and Numbering Standards

Important Notice— This NTL includes an attachment of 10 pages plus 15 pages of line drawings. Because of the size of the digital file containing them (almost 10 megabytes), it is not possible to include them here. Information on how to obtain them can be found in a note at the end of this document. The complete text, however, of the NTL follows below.

The problems and flaws associated with the existing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas well naming and numbering standards as contained in API Bulletin D12A are widely acknowledged throughout the industry. These deficiencies have resulted in significant, long-standing problems associated with consistent well identification, data storage and database management, and all types of communications within the oil and gas industry.

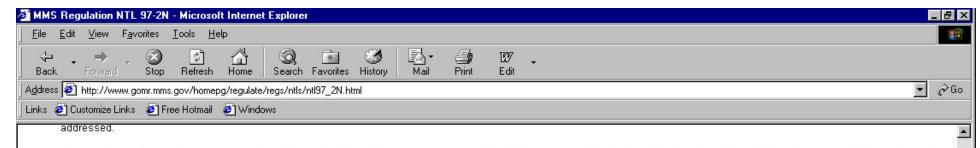
The goal of the attached "Well Naming And Numbering Standards" is to revise and improve existing standards and practices in order to:

- 1. Ensure that all wellbores in the OCS, including sidetracks, bypasses, redrills, and well deepenings, are assigned unique, consistent identifying numbers.
- 2. Establish well naming and numbering standards for new technology wellbores, such as multilateral, downhole splitter, and horizontal wells, which have not been addressed

The implementation and use of these new standards (except for the well name suffix as stipulated below) are effective 30 days from the date of this Notice to Lessees (NTL) and will apply to all wells spudded after that effective date. Except for a small number of capacity wells and completions crossing lease lines, no existing well names and numbers assigned for past wells drilled and completed in the Gulf of Mexico will be changed or affected by the implementation of these new standards. For these exceptions, operators will receive notification from Royalty Management via the Well Confirmation Report. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Pacific OCS Region may revise some or all historical Pacific well names and numbers in the future to comply with these new standards.

The effective date for the use of the well name suffix as described in the new Well Naming and Numbering Standards will be effective 180 days from the date of this NTL. This will allow MMS and industry time to finish any programming necessary to implement the use of this suffix. These standards will also be attached as an appendix to existing MMS reporter handbooks. If there are any questions regarding these new well naming and numbering standards, please contact one of the following:

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Bob Lanza - (504) 736-2450 Fran Wiseman - (504) 736-2912 Eric Kazanis - (504) 736-2667 Charlie Nixdorff - (504) 736-2909



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Pacific OCS Region
Joan Barminski - (805) 389-7556

Alaska OCS Region Jeff Walker - (907) 271-6188

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in the MMS forms referred to in the attached "Well Naming and Numbering Standards" document. The forms and respective OMB control numbers are: Form MMS-123, "Application for Permit to Drill (APD)," OMB Control Number 1010-0044; Form MMS-124, "Sundry Notices and Reports on Well," OMB Control Number 1010-0045; and Form MMS-125, "Well Summary Report," OMB Control Number 1010-0046. This notice does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

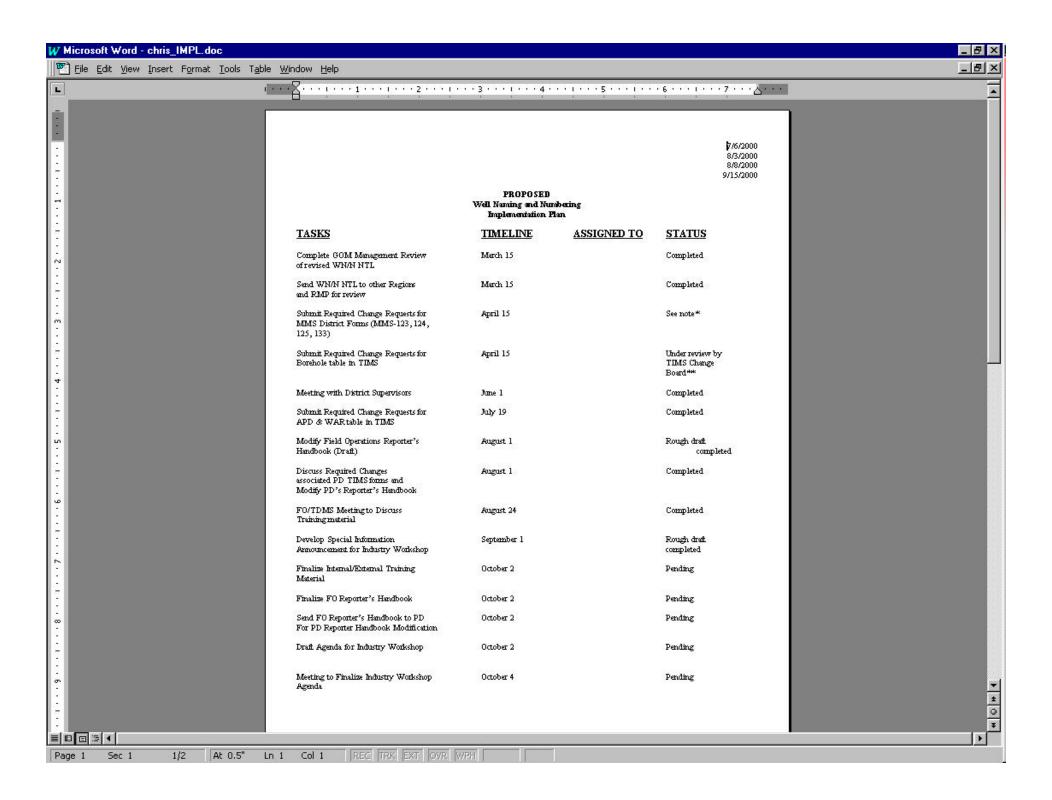
Carolita Kallaur Associate Director

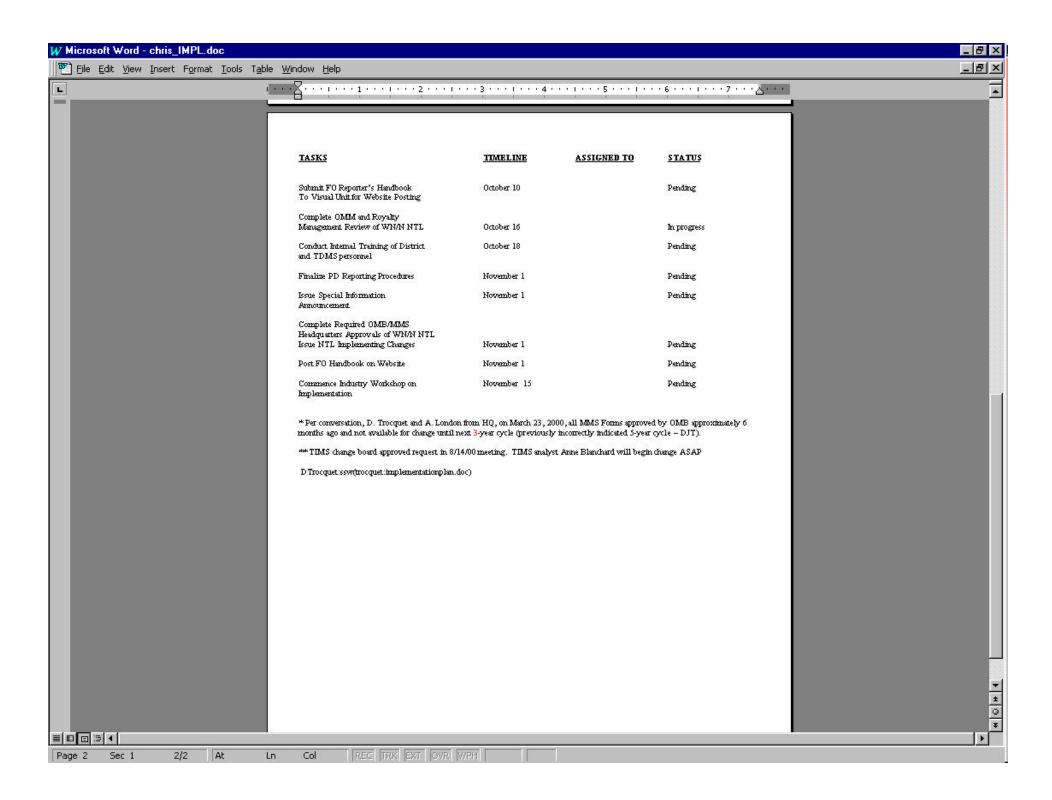
Attachment

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You may obtain a paper copy at no charge from the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Public Information Office at 1-800-200-GULF.

Return to Notices to Lessees and Operators





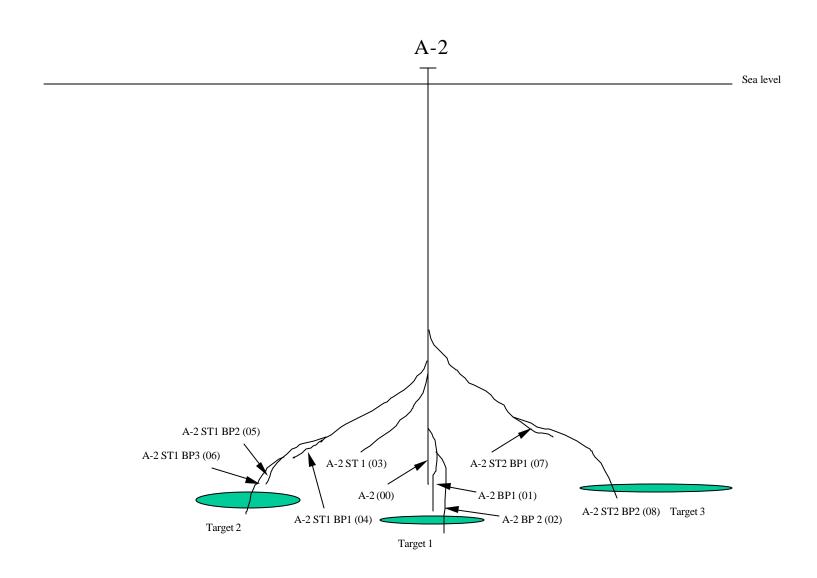


Figure 3 - Well Name/Number Suffix